SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Do the Government know that only one category of institutions called peons are denied this privilege, whereas clerks, teachers and others are given this privilege? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that question will have to be considered later on. I am afraid we cannot give further concessions at this stage."

Levy of sales tax on foodstuffs.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI A. SUBRAMANYAM (on behalf of Sri T. V. Devaraja Mudaliyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the levy of sales tax on foodstuffs such as coconut and milk as was done in the case of onion, potatoes, plantain leaves and betel leaves; and

(*b*) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) & (*b*) There is no proposal to exempt coconuts from levy of sales tax as it is considered that they are not perishables. The question of exempting milk from levy of sales tax is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI A SUBRAMANYAM :—" தேங்காய் அழுகிவிடுவதாலும், பால் கெட்டுவிடுவதாலும் அவைகளுக்கு ஏதாகிலும் இந்த வரியிலிருந்து விலக்கு அளிக்கப்படுமா என்பதுதான் என்னுடைய கேள்வி ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Coconut is not such a perishable article as vegetables and fish."

SRI A. SUBRAMANYAM :—" சமீபத்தில் திருச்சிராப்பள்ளியில் நடைபெற்ற தேங்காய் வியாபாரிகள் மகாநாட்டில் நம்முடைய முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இந்த வருஷ பட்ஜட் முடிவடைந்துவிட்டதால் அடுத்த வருஷம் கவனிப்பதாகக் கூறியிருக்கிறார். அடுத்த வருஷத்தில் இது விஷயத்தைக் கவனித்து வரியிலிருந்து விலக்கு அளிக்கப்படுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" அந்தமாதிரி சொல்லியிருக்கலாம். இந்த வருஷம் அநேக விஷயங்களை கவனிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அடுத்த வருஷத்தைப்பற்றி பிறகு பார்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம் ? "

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Apart from milk which the Government are considering to exempt from the levy of sales tax, are they considering the exemption of other perishable commodities? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, only milk is under consideration."

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—" Will the Government consider the question of exempting perishable green chillies from sales tax? "

11–10 a.m. THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" We have already exempted certain vegetables from sales tax. I think the hon.

5th April 1955]

Member draws attention to the fact that chilli does not come under that category. It is not a perishable article. Probably on that account it has not been exempted."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Hon. Minister examine and see that no sales tax is imposed on essential food articles? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is a very large question. That is not under consideration now."

Flood havoc in Cuddalore.

* 272 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Cuddalore is being subjected to havoc by floods every year; and

(*b*) if so, what measures the Government propose to take to avoid damages thereby to lives and properties of the people therein?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No. Cuddalore is subjected to floods during the years when there are excessive rains lasting several days or a series of successive storm periods that cause floods.

" (*b*) A proposal for forming a system of flood banks to protect Cuddalore town from floods was initiated in 1947, but it was deferred in 1951 on account of the poor finances of the State at that time. The proposal has since been revived and the Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Engineer."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" வெள்ளத்தடுப்பு வேலையைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு மத்திய சர்க்கார் 10 கோடி ரூபாயில் ராஜாங்கங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட ரூபாய் எவ்வளவு என்று சொல்ல முடியுயா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" இந்த ராஜயத்தில் ஏற்படக்கூடிய வெள்ளத் தடுப்பு வேலையை உடனடியாகக் கவனிப்பதற்கு இரண்டாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்தில் இதைச் சேர்க்க முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This is a question being considered by this Government. The report of the Chief Engineer is awaited. The question of including it in the Five-Year Plan or otherwise will be considered afterwards."

Repairs to Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation in or about October 1954 in regard to repairs to the Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?